**Survival of Ongole cattle**

427. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Wil the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to ensure the survival of indigenous breeds of cattle like the "Ongole" variety of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that no scheme has been formulated to preserve pure genetic breeds of "Ongole" cattle;

(c) the steps being taken to formulate a nation-wide scheme to preserve such cattle and buffaloes which suit our climate and needs; and

(d) the steps proposed to encourage preservation of all Indian breeds of oxen and cows and other animals related to dairy products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) For genetic up-gradation of bovine population, and development and conservation of indigenous breeds in the country, a National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding (NPCBB) is being implemented since October, 2000 and funds to the tune of Rs. 293.45 crore have been released upto 2005-06 as 100% grant-in-aid to 27 State Implementing Agencies/ Union Territories. To consolidate the gains made in Phase-I, Phase-II of NPCBB has begun from December, 2006 for further five years in the States which have practically completed Phase-I. One of the major objectives of Phase-II is to undertake bulk production programme of indigenous cattle and buffalo breeds for the breeding purposes. A Central Herd Registration Scheme is also operational since 1962 to locate superior germplasm in the breeding tract, encourage conservation of indigenous breeds and proudction of high quality cows and buffaloes including the Ongole breed of cattle for the breeding purposes. Under the scheme owners of elite registered animals are provided cash incentives and motivated to form breeder's associations/societies.